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ROMNEY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES \$226,377 IN WATER QUALITY GRANTS FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Herzfelder today announced grants totaling \$226,377 to coastal communities and regional nonprofit organizations under the Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Program (Coastal NPS).

“The Coastal NPS Grant Program provides funding to local communities to help them address critical water quality problems,” said Secretary Herzfelder. “The grant program allows us to assist public and non-profit organizations to research and manage nonpoint source pollution that threatens our coastal wetlands, estuaries, and beaches.”

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from many sources such as rainfall and melting snow. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into coastal waters, lakes, rivers, wetlands, and even our underground sources of drinking water.

Reducing NPS pollution requires the reduction or elimination of the factors that cause it. These include: fertilizer and insecticide use from agricultural lands and residential areas; oil, grease and toxic chemicals runoff; sediment from improperly managed construction sites, agricultural and forest lands; eroding stream banks; salt and sand from winter road treatment; and bacteria deposits and nutrients from livestock, pet waste, boat sewage and faulty septic systems.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides funding for Coastal NPS through annual congressional appropriations for the National Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program. Grants issued under the grant program serve to implement portions of the Massachusetts Coastal Nonpoint Source Control Program.

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The CNPS program's goal to improve coastal water quality by reducing or eliminating nonpoint sources of pollution is clearly met by the following funded projects:

- The town of Rockport's \$22,845 grant will be used to assess nonpoint source pollution, particularly stormwater sedimentation and bacterial contamination, from the lower portion of Mill Brook to Front Beach. The goal of this project is to characterize and evaluate the nature and sources of contamination, and to develop best management practices.
- The \$9,015.00 grant award to Massachusetts Audubon Society will provide communities in the Lower Merrimack Valley targeted outreach and technical assistance regarding a proven, transferable nonpoint source pollution control tool, Open Space Residential Design (OSRD). The goal of this project is to educate cities and towns regarding this tool, specifically how the use of this type of conservation subdivision permitting will help communities reduce nonpoint source pollution that typically occurs with traditional development practices.
- The Martha's Vineyard Commission's \$10,869 grant will enable the Commission to identify all parcels of land within the Tashmoo, Lagoon and Sengekontacket Ponds watershed, and to use this information as a basis to characterize present-day and projected nitrogen loading to the ponds. The information collected will facilitate the completion of nitrogen Total Maximum Daily Load projections for this area (the amount of a particular pollutant that a particular stream, lake, estuary or other water body can "handle" without violating state water quality standards).
- The town of Duxbury was awarded a \$34,920 grant to conduct a cooperative policy-development project with the neighboring towns of Marshfield and Plymouth. The project consists of the development of a model stormwater bylaw that incorporates the concepts and principles of low impact design and development, and conservation planning.
- The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) was awarded \$32,600 to conduct an innovative, capacity-building project that will assist municipalities in coastal watersheds with controlling nonpoint source (NPS) pollution from agricultural resources. DAR will develop a model agricultural commission, a standing town committee whose members would primarily be engaged in farming, that will work with farmers to evaluate potential areas on a farm contributing to NPS pollution and direct them to technical and financial assistance for mitigating the pollution issue.
- The town of Barnstable was awarded \$37,150 to conduct a stormwater assessment and design structural stormwater treatment facilities to remediate nonpoint source pollution in stormwater entering the Hyannis Inner Harbor.
- The \$16,778 award to the town of Sandwich, will assist the town in their efforts to design structural stormwater treatment facilities to treat nonpoint source pollution in stormwater entering Mill Creek in downtown Sandwich.
- The town of Marion was awarded \$6,800 to study the sources of contamination to the Sippican Harbor and to determine best management practices for nonpoint source pollution control. Initial studies have shown low to moderate habitat quality in the harbor, particularly to eelgrass beds, due to nutrient loadings.
- The city of Salem was funded \$16,050 for an assessment of nonpoint source pollution from the Willows Park area, and \$23,100 for an assessment of bacterial pollution to Juniper Beach. For the Willows Park project, the city will conduct a land survey to investigate potential sources such as pet waste, wildlife waste, failing septic systems, etc. For the Juniper Beach project, the city will evaluate the possibility of NPS contamination to groundwater from unknown and/or failing septic systems in the area.

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- With \$16,250 in funding, Salem Sound Coastwatch will conduct water quality monitoring in a number of North Shore Communities, and communicate findings of the monitoring program to municipalities, and the general public. Using this information, they will identify, develop and implement appropriate nonpoint source management measures.

CZM will solicit applications for the next grant round in September 2004. Communities that are interested in developing a proposal for the next grant round are encouraged to contact the CNPS Program Coordinator or CZM regional staff:

CNPS Program Coordinator: Julie Ann Keane: 617-626-1235

CZM Regional Offices:

(978) 281-7870 for the North Shore Office in Gloucester.

(617) 626-1174 for the Boston Harbor Office in Boston.

(781) 545-8026, x 209 for the South Shore Office in Scituate.

(508) 946-8990 for the South Coastal Office in Lakeville.

(508) 362-1760 for the Cape Cod and Islands Office in Barnstable.

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